

The Voice

The Newsletter of the Cedar Falls United Church of Christ November 22, 2016.

Community Meal November 29th

Dear Family and Friends of Cedar Falls UCC,

Our turn to serve the community meal is November 29th. If you can help us out please join us at the First United Methodist Church (downtown) Cedar Falls at 4 p.m. Show you care join us. Thanks.

May God's love and peace be with you this day. I am still enjoying my spirit being uplifted from our celebration of shared ministry service last Sunday. Thank you all who helped make that day so special. Thank you so much! I video taped the service though I haven't had time to see how it turned out. If you would like to see it let me know and when I get it put on DVD (maybe as early as next week) I will give you one to watch at your leisure.

Two weeks ago I was in the middle of an intense educational event. It was called: Church Social Media Summit. I learned a lot. I need your help to implement some of the "growing the church" tools.

1st, if you are on Facebook, please like our church page. If you have already liked our page, then ask that our posts pop up when you sign on.

2nd, It really helps our posts to show up on other's Facebook pages if you like and comment on our posts. It is called organic growth, because if you just go and see them but don't like them or comment on them, Facebook lets them go and not have them show up unless you go

directly to our page. If we pay for them, like an ad, then they get posted on more people's pages. Before we invest in "boosting" our posts, let's just get in the habit of doing what we can to increase our visibility and activity.

3rd I am not good YET at posting pictures and videos on our Facebook page. If you have this gift, would you be willing to show me how? I have been doing a lot of how to do things from U-tube but it would really be nice if someone in person would be willing to show me.

Please keep the church in your prayers. If we are going to do more than survive, then we need the fuel that prayer gives to grow.

This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent. We will put up the decorations and have the advent candles out for this Sunday's worship. Because of the installation we didn't decorate like we have been doing right after church service. If you are available Saturday the 26th to help change the vestments and banners... put up the tree, then let me know.

A special note of thanks is extended to Carol Smith, thank you for helping me out in getting things in the mail. She has also helped get these in the mail.

If you are willing to donate some time in the office, let me know. Being able to talk to a person rather than a machine is more welcoming.

We have some tasks besides answering the phone for those who are able and there are always little extras that can be done.

Thanks to Eileen Daley for helping Larry get the pledge cards out. Thank you.

Happy Thanksgiving. Greg Meyer, our organist has invited anyone who would like to join him to let him know. He is preparing and sharing a meal at the Unity Presbyterian Church in Waterloo. 319-233-4575 call if you can come.

On a personal note, Janice and I are hosting my brother and some of his family and one of my sister's and her family. We will enjoy a houseful. I'm grilling the turkey and ham, so maybe you could send prayers our way for a good outcome. ☺

"Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God." (Matt. 5:9)

We are making a difference where we can and how we can. You can make the church stronger. Invite and bring friends to worship. Let us know how we can reach into the community. God bless you! God is awesome! God loves you!

In Christ we serve,
Pastor Sue

FULLY RELY ON GOD!



THANK YOU

Thank you! Thank you is extended to all those who attended our Celebration of Shared Ministry (Pastor Sue is duly installed as pastor and teacher of Cedar Falls UCC).

Cedar Valley Interfaith Council

The Cedar Valley Interfaith Council sponsored event "A Season of Prayer for Our Leaders" an Interfaith Prayer Service on Sunday, November 13th at 3 p.m. at the YWCA of Black Hawk County 425 Lafayette St. Waterloo Iowa was meaningful and successful. Present were around 50 students from Wartburg, persons from many different faiths (150 or so were present).

Theological Forums

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday nights will resume in January.

Donations Welcomed for our Church Organ

Our organ has been tuned and some major repair work is needed. We will have more specifics later. In the meantime, we are still receiving donations to help repair the organ. Thank you to all the people who have given us help.

President's Message

The focus of my message in the Voice is the stewardship ministry for the upcoming year. The goal of any stewardship ministry is to give members the opportunity to make a financial commitment to the work of the congregation. Making a financial commitment is essential to church membership and growing in giving is part of our faith journey.

Please give thoughtful consideration to your pledge for 2017. This past year we have leaned heavily on our endowment fund to sustain the budget. That will continue, however, we can have a positive impact on that with our pledges. Following is the stewardship schedule for this year:

Planning Calendar – 2017 Budget
October – Assemble preliminary budget

November 13 – Pledge cards available on Sunday
Week of November 13th – Remaining pledge cards in the mail
December 11th – Pledge cards returned to the Church Council
Early January – Council prepares tentative final budget
January 8 – Tentative final budget available for review and comment
Late January – Congregation's Annual Meeting – Final Budget approved

In the past year we have maintained many of the church activities from the past and have been able to begin new ones. We continue for example United Fellowship, Morning Circle, serving and participating in the ministry of the community meal on the 5th Tuesday. We are also doing some nice things to create more exposure for the Cedar Falls UCC. We have a new Web site and are increasing our presence on Facebook. Pastor Sue has been facilitating Theological Forums on Wednesday evenings. Pastor Janice is providing a variety of workshops. Last Saturday was: All are Welcome at the Table, but Do I have to sit next to you? There is a workshop scheduled for January and another one in February. We launched a clothes closet ministry for foster children. A goal is for us to continue to increase our exposure throughout the community in 2017.

We will be available to review and discuss the anticipated budget after church on Sundays.

Support Group for Families

The support group for families with a child diagnosed with mental illness now only meets once a month. We will be providing this support

group 6:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. Our next meeting is December 8th.

Other Opportunities to Serve!

We are dividing the responsibilities up again on Sunday morning. The team idea was a good one, but we seem to be having problems getting enough teams. So if you are willing to be a greeter in 2017 please sign up. If you are willing to be ushers, please sign up. If you are willing to be hosts for fellowship time following church, let us know. Just call the office: 266-9686. Thank you. We appreciate your help.

Cedar Falls UCC Foster Children's Closet Our love is extended to foster families.

United Fellowship

United Fellowship will have their Dec. lunch outing on Thursday Dec. 1. Meet at the church at 11:15 a.m. or if it is closer for you go to Noble Oak, downtown Cedar Falls then. A menu is posted on the bulletin board by the kitchen. Please let Barb Kuhlman know if you plan to attend, all are welcome to join us.

Morning Circle

Morning Circle will fill Cheer Boxes on Thursday Dec. 15 at 9:30. If you enjoy making Christmas goodies for our shut-ins, please have them at church by this time. If you want to help deliver them and visit our shut-ins, see Barb Kuhlman about timing that will work for you. Also, please make sure that we have your handprints on the sheets in the fellowship room. It works better if you do this with a partner. We plan to use these handprints to make a banner this winter.

UPCOMING EVENTS

11.27.16 – The First Sunday of Advent

**11/29/16 TUES 4 p.m. Serving the
Community Meal @ First UMC
downtown Cedar Falls**

12.1.16 is World AIDS Day.

**12.4.16 is Communion Sunday and the
Second Sunday of Advent**

12.5.16 is deadline for the next Voice

**We are having a Christmas Eve service at
7 p.m. Christmas Day we won't be
having our own service, but inviting our
families to join others in worship. We
will have worship on New Year's Day
though!**

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
An Open and Affirming Congregation
“Listening to God with open minds.
Welcoming all with open arms.”

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